

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 /083 W
-----056709 191632Z /40

R 190747Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7002
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2093

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, AF
SUBJECT: AUTHORITIES EXECUTE EIGHT MORE CRIMINALS IN ON-GOING
LAW AND ORDER CAMPAIGN

REF: KABUL 1619

1. THE AFGHAN MEDIA ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 25 THAT FIVE "NOTORIOUS" CRIMINALS HAD BEEN EXECUTED, AND ON MARCH 13 THAT THREE MORE CONVICTS HAD MET THE SAME FATE. THE ANNOUNCEMENTS CHARACTERIZE THE CULPRITS AS ORDINARY CRIMINALS WHO WERE ACTIVE IN AND AROUND KABUL, AND WHO WERE GUILTY OF SUCH CRIMES AS MRUDER, ROBBERY, AND EXTORTION.

2. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS MAINTAIN THE REGIME'S LAW AND ORDER CAMPAIGN (LAUNCHED LAST FALL IN RESPONSE TO A GROWING POPULAR FEELING THAT DOMESTIC SECURITY WAS DETERIORATING), AND THE ANNOUNCEMENTS KEEP THIS CAMPAIGN ALIVE AND WELL IN THE PUBLIC'S AWARENESS. FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS POINT OF VIEW, THE ANNOUNCEMENTS CAREFULLY POINT OUT THAT THE ACCUSED EXHAUSTED ALL AVAILABLE JUDICIAL APPEALS, THAT THEY WERE INDEED DESERVING OF THEIR FATE, AND THAT THEY WERE DISPATCHED IN ACCORDANCE
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WITH ARTICLE 98 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE (WHICH PROVIDES CAPITAL PUNISHMENT THROUGH HANGING).

3. FINALLY, ONE OF THE THREE MEN INCLUDED IN THE LATER ANNOUNCEMENT WAS GHULAM HAZARAT, WHO, ACCORDING TO SOME RUMORS, WAS THE TRIGGER MAN IN THE SLAYING OF ARIANA PILOT INA'MUL HAQ GRAN LAST SEPTEMBER (REFTEL). WE HAVE NO INFORMATION

WHICH CONFIRMS THESE RUMORS CONNECTING HAZARAT WITH THE GRAN
AFFAIR, BUT WHATEVER ROLE HE MAY HAVE HAD IN THE KILLING,
OR EVEN HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER, WILL NOW PROBABLY NEVER
BE KNOWN. IN THIS REGARD, THE PREDICTABLE RUMORS THAT HAZARAT
WAS ELIMINATED IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE HIS POSSIBLE FUTURE
DISCLOSURES OF OTHERS' ROLES IN THE GRAN MURDER HAVE ALREADY
BEGUN TO CIRCULATE.
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